

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

JONES et al

Atty. Ref.: 604-608

Serial No. Unassigned

Group:

Filed: October 9, 2001

Examiner:

For: COMPACTED OLEFIN FIBERS

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October 9, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all of the claims in this application, namely Claims 1-26, and replace by the following new claims .

27. (New) A polymeric material comprising a compressed assembly of melt formed fibers of a cross-linked oriented polyolefin, the fibers being bound together by a recrystallized melt comprising from 10% to 50% by weight of the polymer in the material, wherein both fibers are recrystallised melt phase are

derived from the molecularly oriented fibers of a precursor assembly of molecularly oriented thermoplastic polymer fibers.

28. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, wherein the crosslinked fibers are irradiation crosslinked with ionising radiation.

29. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, wherein the crosslinking step is carried out in an environment which is substantially free of oxygen gas and which comprises a monomeric compound selected from the group consisting of alkynes and alkenes, the alkenes being those having at least two double bonds.

30. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, where the fibers have a weight average molecular weight in the range 10,000 to 400,000.

31. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, wherein the polyolefin polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymer, a copolymer containing a major proportion of polypropylene, polyethylene homopolymer and a copolymer containing a major proportion of polyethylene.

32. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27 wherein the polyolefin polymer fibers of the precursor assembly have a gel fraction in the range 0.55 to 0.7.

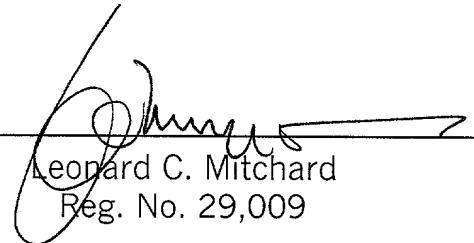
33. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27 comprising up to 60% by weight of an inorganic filler.

REMARKS

New Claims 27-33 are presented for examination. These claims are supported by the originally-filed application. No new matter is entered.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Leonard C. Mitchard
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:Iks
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100